

NATIONAL AIR INTELLIGENCE CENTER



JUNSHI WENZHAI (MILITARY DIGEST)
(Selected Articles)



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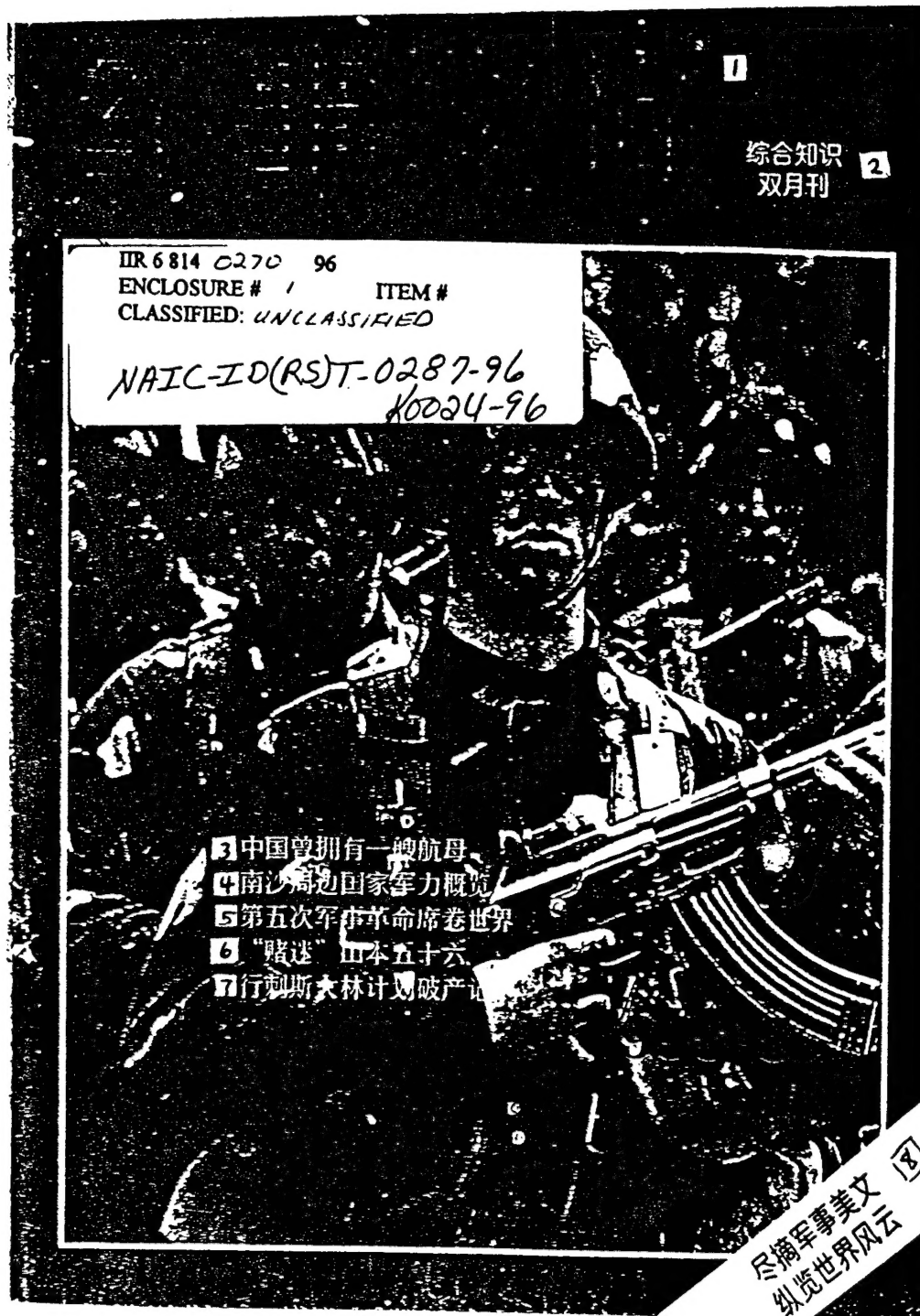
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- (1). Military Digest
- (2). Comprehensive knowledge, Bimonthly
- (3). China Used to Have an Aircraft Carrier
- (4). An Overview of the Military Power of Nations Surrounding the Nansha Islands
- (5). The Fifth Military Revolution is Sweeping Over the World
- (6). "Gambling Fiend" Yamamoto Gojuroku
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- (8). A Selection of Military Articles Scanning the World Situation

Controversy Over Laser Weapons

Author: Han Lin

For many years, lasers have been used in weapon guidance systems, and have played auxiliary roles in combat, reconnaissance, and other military fields. But what will be the result if lasers are used on a large scale as weapons of war?

The Pentagon has said of its recently developed laser weapon system that it is "effective self-defense equipment" with a high safety coefficient. However, people who participated in the development of this weapon system have revealed that it can fundamentally damage an enemy's retinas, causing the enemy to lose his combat capability, and thus attaining the ultimate goal of winning without fighting a battle. Thus, one of its possible effects is to cause people to go permanently blind. This news spread like wildfire in America and aroused a huge controversy in military and social circles.

Critics hold the view that although this weapon cannot kill people and seems humane on the surface, it will disable soldiers for life and bring them endless pain. This is not much different from killing them.

Recently, the American Red Cross, the Disabled Veterans' Association, and other organizations have held huge protest demonstrations to show their opposition to approval of laser weapon production; at the same time, they have called on the international community for a ban on their production, in order to prohibit this kind of laser weapon and eliminate this method of blinding the enemy as a way of fighting a war. According to reports, the efforts of these civil organizations have already won the support of nations concerned, and these nations hope to formally raise this issue at the United Nations Conventional Weapons Treaty Conference in September for the General Assembly to discuss and vote on it.

However, the United States military, which supports production of laser weapons, is heavily opposed to this. First, they believe that raising this issue will cause people to overlook other important weapons, such as highly lethal land mines, and second, lasers and other non-lethal weapons will be widely used in future small-scale conflicts, and will play major roles in

future wars. In addition, several international government critics worry that if a war is not lethal enough, it will lead to ceaseless reprisals by both sides.

(Originally published in *Qingnian Bao* (Youth News).)

Nonlethal Weapons Will Soon Enter Service

Author: Qiao Bao

According to foreign wire reports, a new generation of nonlethal weapons will soon come out. These weapons merely make people unable to take action, rather than shoot them dead. It is estimated that they will go into use one year from now. This year, it is predicted that world military circles will focus on laser rifles, noise bombs, light bombs, electromagnetic weapons, engine-extinguishing gases, tire destruction chemicals, and a Russian thought-control machine. At present, the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force is beginning a research project on how to better use air power in peacekeeping operations. Its focus is the next generation of nonlethal weapons. The army is also cooperating closely with a national defense research organization at Farnborough to find out which nonlethal technologies can be used in real combat situations. NATO has also set up a [nonlethal weapon] research team. An asphyxiation rifle can not yet be used, but it is believed that the following secret weapons are close to being ready for use in actual combat:

Laser Rifles. Low-energy laser rifles, which are powered by soldier's backpack generators, have an effective range of about one mile. These rifles make no noise and fire invisible rays, but cause people to lose their sight if fired at their eyes, especially if they are using night vision goggles or binoculars.

Noise Bombs. These bombs produce ultra-low frequency sound waves similar to those generated by earthquakes. The sound waves can damage human tissue and internal organs. It is said that these bombs are in the final stage of development in the United States. Their waves cause violent nausea and diarrhea and make the inner ear vibrate, thus destroying equilibrium.

Light Bombs. These high-explosive shells which are under development produce a flash of light and can either be air-dropped or fired from conventional cannons or mortars. Light from their blast is extremely bright and covers the entire spectrum from infrared to ultraviolet. They can cause blindness for up to one hour.

Electromagnetic Weapons. These are also called high-energy microwave weapons. They are designed to have an effective range of up to 60 miles. They can transmit intense electromagnetic pulses which enter mechanical equipment through tiny cracks and gaps, causing key components to be overloaded, and making entire electronic systems useless. The Australians are now devoting major efforts to study of these weapons.

Logic Bombs. These weapons are primarily for use by special forces or spies who can get close to enemy computer systems. They are computer viruses which can cause enemy command and control systems to not function properly.

Immobilization Weapons. These include super compounds that, after being released, can cause automobile tires to melt, as well as gases that can cause car engines to die. These weapons can even turn fuel into useless jelly.

United States police forces are especially interested in a kind of highly viscous foam that is sprayed from a sprayer slung over the user's shoulder. It can immediately cause a person's limbs to stick together, making him unable to move.

Tranquilizers and Irritants. Tranquilizers dissolved into spray solutions, super "stink bombs," and skin irritants which can lower enemy soldiers' ability to concentrate and fight belong to this class of weapon.

A Kind of Thought Control Weapon. This weapon was discovered in Moscow in 1991, and it is believed that the former Soviet Union used it in the Afghanistan war. The United States is now researching a weapon of this kind. It is composed of a computer that can produce light rays and strings of words. Its functions are to analyze people's personalities based on their brain waves and to transmit subliminal information to influence individuals or groups of people.